



Country/City	Aotearoa New Zealand / Wellington
University / School	Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington / School of Architecture
Academic year	2024
Title of the project	Ecosanctuary and heritage reserve at Mātai Moana
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Title of the course	LAND 411 - Landscape Architecture Design Studio V
Academic year	2024
Teaching Staff	Carles Martinez-Almoyna
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Landscape Architecture Programme
University / School	Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington / School of Architecture



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

LAND411 explores how landscape design can respond to sites affected by a multifaceted array of social, cultural, political, and environmental factors. Thanks to its extinct military use and strategic location, Mātai Moana holds immense ecological and historic value, particularly Māori. To contribute to the debate around the future of the whenua (land), a participatory project was facilitated by LAND411/2024. Many locals, as well as representatives from 22 different community groups and mana whenua (indigenous people who have historic and territorial rights over the land), participated in a series of site visits, seminars, workshops, and reviews. The goal was to collectively design different master plans for the whole area, as well as a wide range of site-specific interventions. The students' designs were grounded on site knowledge, community aspirations, and mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge). The participatory project continued once the course was over with the goal to define a final consensus design to influence land protection and drive a gradual transformation of the area. Lauren Kendon & Zoe Mason's design *Whakaora i te Mauri o te Whenua* focuses on the reconnection of people, history, and nature to restore the mauri (life force) of the land through ecological restoration and community engagement. This is achieved through the reconnection of key Māori concepts into the landscape. These concepts include Whakapapa (the lineage between people and the land), Mauri (the life force in ecosystems), Kaitiakitanga (duty of guardianship towards the environment), Whenua (spiritual and cultural significance of the land), Kotahitanga (interconnected relationships within communities) and Whanaungatanga (cultural resilience and harmony with nature).

Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Contact via email:
biennaladm@coac.net

Venue:
COAC - Col·legi Oficial d'Arquitectes de Catalunya
Carrer Arcs 1-3, 08002 Barcelona - Spain

Reconnection of Whakapapa in the Landscape



Kau-whakāra-waru Pā and Kainga

Kau-whakāra-waru Pā and Kainga were occupied first by Ngāti Tara then Ngāti Ira. Stories from Ngāti Ira include a story about Te Hiku-Tawatawa a Rangī, who experienced family conflict and reconciliation. This is represented in the design of the Pā site through an explorative pathway as shown below.



Kau-whakāra-waru Kainga was a Māori settlement at this site. The name translates to "bathe in the summer". This design creates a destination area to play and swim in the sun. The design also restores the stream and coastal edge.



Buried Waka Site

This is the site that a Waka was buried by an iwi. This design includes a sculptural waka to represent the buried waka alongside a rest area for people to learn about the history and reconnect with the Whakapapa of the Landscape.



Te Mata ki Kai Poinga Pā

The pathways in this design are inspired by the story of Tūhūniri, from Kai Tahu. He was attacked from one side and escaped out the other. This is represented through the use of multiple pathways leading up to this site. This is also part of a stone wall that remains from this Pā. Another pathway follows this wall to highlight this historic feature.

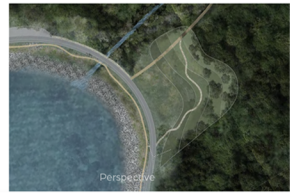


Point Halswell Battery

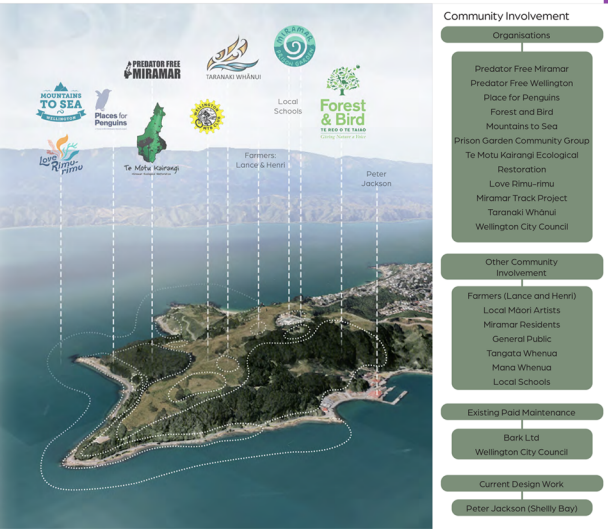
The Halswell Battery structures offer a unique experience on the site with the large bunkers that can be used to rest and enjoy the 180 views of Wellington Harbour. The planting and pathways are designed to make this historic experience more accessible.

Māhanga Pā and Kainga / Fort Balance

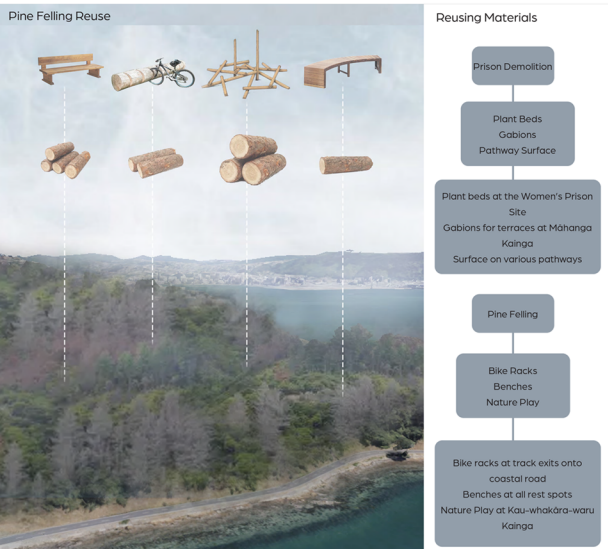
Te Māhanga Pā & Kainga sites have a mix of heritage, the areas were occupied by initially by Ngāti Mutunga then the land was transferred to Te Ati Awa. According to Elsdon Best the sites once had small terraced hut sites, the Kainga position offered a wide vantage point to view the rising sun, while being sheltered by the winds. The sites then had the military structure of Fort Balance, the design offers a pathway on the external of the bunker for added accessibility. These sites create a mixed use space for people to learn about the sites Military and Māori heritage while enjoying the wide view points.



Facilitating Kotahitanga and Whanaungatanga through Community Connections



Reconnecting with Kaitiakitanga for Sustainable Land Management



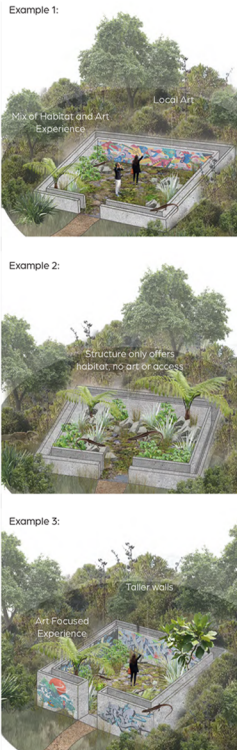
Entrances

Māori waharoa (entrances) will be designed by a local Māori Artist to represent Whaitaitai, the Taniwha who created this peninsula.

Prison Demolition Reuse



Reconnection of Key Ecosystems in the Landscape to Restore Mauri



Micro-Ecosystem Project: Historic Ammunition Stores

Along the Military Road Pathway there are a series of ammunition storage structures from when the Military occupied the site. These large concrete structures have the potential to be repurposed by removing the roofs and breaking up the concrete flooring, native plants can grow within the cracks to create a micro-ecosystem aimed to support native gecko and skink species. The design also offers art opportunities for the concrete walls to have murals painted by local artists or school kids. Each building offers a different experience to enjoy.

Planting Palettes

Splash Zone	Coastal Fringe	Riparian	Ridgeline	Inland Coastal Bush
 Sand Biddie <i>Acaena pallida</i>	 Oia <i>Apodasmia similis</i>	 Kakaha, Bush Flax <i>Astelia fragrans</i>	 Daisy Bush <i>Brachyglottis grayi</i>	 Shining Spleenwort <i>Asplenium oblongifolium</i>
 Grey Saltbush <i>Atriplex canescens</i>	 Coastal Astelia <i>Astelia banaisii</i>	 Pukio <i>Carex secta</i>	 Cutty Grass <i>Carex burchardii</i>	 T1 Cabbage tree <i>Cordyline australis</i>
 Toetoe <i>Austroderia toetoe</i>	 Puka <i>Meryta sinclairii</i>	 Toitai, Swamp Sedge <i>Carex virgata</i>	 Tataki <i>Carex trifida</i>	 Mamaku, Tree Fern <i>Cyathea medullaris</i>
 Taupata <i>Coprosma repens</i>	 Harakeke <i>Phormium tenax</i>	 Wiri <i>Juncus edgariae</i>	 Mingimiri <i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	 Kahakaha <i>Dyckia speciosa</i>
 Shore Spurge <i>Euphorbia glauca</i>	 Houpara, Five Fingers <i>Leptocarpus lessonae</i>	 Mānuka <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	 Kānuka <i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	 Kāpuka <i>Araucaria arborescens</i>
 Spinifex <i>Spinifex sericeus</i>	 Karo <i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	 Mānau, Ribbonwood <i>Plagianthus regius</i>	 Thick-leaved Mahoe <i>Melicytus crassifolius</i>	 Ngalo <i>Myoporum laetum</i>
			 Kōwhiri <i>Scaevola microphylla</i>	
			 Kōromiko <i>Veronica strictifolia</i>	

Reconnecting People with their Whenua

